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4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20815 (301) 656-4068

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NBC Network

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SUBJECT Recruiting At Colorado University

JOHN PALMER: In Colorado, a student protest with a different target.
Roger O'Neil reports.

ROGER O'NEIL: The demonstrators said they wanted to make citizens' arrests of five Central Intelligence Agency officers who had come to the university of Colorado on a job recruiting drive. The plan failed, and instead 70 of them were arrested.

MAN: We are determined to stop conspiracy to murder.

POLICEMAN: You are under arrest.

O'NEIL: The protesters were demonstrating against CIA involvement in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Unlike earlier days, most students ignored the demonstration.

The CIA says it visits more than a hundred campuses a year to recruit students, usually without incident.

It is ironic that on politically active campus, like C.U., scene of some violent demonstrations in the '60s and '70s that the CIA is one of the most popular groups among students looking for jobs. One hundred and seventy-six students signed up for job interviews.

WOMAN: I don't think there's anything wrong with being conservative, and I don't think there's anything wrong with

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wanting to work for the CIA.

O'NEIL: In fact, during an orientation session, some students walked out when others tried to make anti-CIA speeches.

Despite the secretive nature of the CIA, recruiter Tom White indicated most of the jobs are rather mundane.

TOM WHITE: Geography, geology, finance, engineering.

O'NEIL: No spy jobs were mentioned. That's classified.

Although a busload of protesters were arrested, the CIA says interest in the agency has increased dramatically since the days of Watergate and Vietnam.